

VVFC News Alert

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Vaccine Supply Alert: ACIP Votes on Interim Vaccine Recommendations

Varicella Administration Delayed

On Wednesday, February 20, 2002, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to delay Varivax vaccination of children 12-18 months until 18 to 24 months.

Prenar Shortage To Continue

Vaccine use Guidelines issued for Prenar

The ACIP revised recommendations to conserve Prenar vaccine by decreasing the number of doses administered to healthy infants rather than to leave some infants unvaccinated. The ACIP recommends vaccination with a maximum of three doses. The fourth dose is to be deferred. The vaccination of high-risk children less than 5 years of age should remain unchanged (i.e., the full number of doses recommended by ACIP in October of 2000; See also the December 2001 issue of the BackPage). Healthy infants and children less than 24 months old should receive fewer doses of Prenar based on the age at which vaccination is initiated (See Table below). Providers are expected to maintain a list of children for whom Prenar vaccine has been deferred so they can be recalled when the supply situation allows. Based on our current vaccine situation, Virginia will adhere to the vaccine administration schedule by ACIP for use under moderate shortage conditions.

Age At First PCV 7	Vaccination Recommendation
< 6 months	3 Doses at 2, 4, 6 months (defer 4 th dose)
7 – 11 months	3 Doses 2—at 2 month interval 1—at 12-15 months
12 – 23 months	2 Doses at 2 month interval
≥ 24 months	No vaccination



Have you checked your freezer today?
Varivax should be stored at -15°C in a
separate sealed unit.

VACCINE NEWS:

From The Order Center

Varivax-Providers are experiencing between an 8-12 week delay in receipt of Varicella vaccine. All orders placed through Jan. 10, 2002 have been shipped. Please continue to place orders as needed. All vaccine orders are sent to Merck for direct shipment to providers. Providers will receive 100% of vaccine ordered once vaccine supply stabilizes.

Prenar-Shipments are delayed from the manufacturer. VFC Prenar is in limited supply. We are limiting orders to 25 doses until our stock is depleted. **Outstanding orders will not be kept on backorder.** Please continue to order Prenar as needed, up to your practice's weekly limit. We will supply vaccine as it becomes available.

Tripedia- Aventis (DTaP) Vaccine is back. DTaP orders will be filled based on provider brand choice.

TriHibit-VFC still has not received any of Aventis' DTaP-Hib combination vaccine. Please order the products separately.

Hep B- Coming soon needleless pre-filled syringes. In order to comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administrations (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogen standards, pre-filled Infanrix will soon be shipped without needles. Your facility will be responsible for choosing needles which comply with OSHA regulations.

Mandatory HBsAg Reporting

Virginia has had a screening law for pregnant females for several years. As of December 18, 2001, physicians are required to report HBsAg+ (Hepatitis B surface antigen) test results to their local health department using the Epi-1 Form. Ninety percent of perinatal infections acquired at birth can be prevented by giving HBIG and the first dose of Hep B vaccine within 12 hours of birth. Therefore, it is important to identify HBsAg+ pregnant females before the birth of her baby. Vaccine for infants, and contacts is available from the VDH. Contact the state Perinatal Hep B Program at (800)568-1929 for more details.

Immunization Records Should be Shared

Virginia Code § 32.1-46 provides health professionals the authority to share immunizations records with other health care providers without written parental consent. The code also obligates the physician to provide the patient with their immunization history.

